Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) Pharmaceutical composition comprising particles of metformin and particles of fibrate, ~~wherein metformin acts as a carrier for fibrate, wherein said metformin and fibrate are present in a combined amount of at least 50% by weight, based on the total weight of the composition~~, wherein the composition comprises from about 70% to about 95% by weight of fibrate and metformin combined together, and from about 5% to about 30% by weight of pharmaceutically acceptable excipients, wherein the weight ratio of metformin to fibrate is comprised between 500:90 and 850:35, and wherein the fibrate is selected from the group consisting of: fenofibrate, fenofibric acid or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or ester of fenofibric acid; and with the provision that if the weight ratio of metformin to fibrate is comprised between 500:90 and 500:65, said composition comprises a dispersion aid as a mandatory excipient.

2. (Original) Pharmaceutical composition according to claim 1, wherein the weight ratio of metformin to fibrate is comprised between 500:54 and 850:65.

3. (Original) Pharmaceutical composition according to claim 1, wherein the weight ratio of metformin to fibrate is comprised between 850:54 and 850:35.

4. (Previously Presented) Pharmaceutical composition according to claim 1, in which at least about 70% of the fibrate is dissolved within about 15 minutes, at least about 80% of the fibrate is dissolved within about 30 minutes, at least about 85% of the fibrate is dissolved within about 45 minutes, as measured using the rotating blade method at 75 rpm according to the European Pharmacopoeia, in a dissolution medium containing 0.025 M sodium lauryl sulfate.

5. (Currently Amended) Pharmaceutical composition according to claim 1, comprising:

- from about ~~60% to about 98% by weight, preferably from about 70% to about 95% by weight, and most preferably from about~~ 74% to about 90% by weight of fibrate and metformin combined together; and
- from about ~~2% to about 40% by weight, preferably from about 5% to about 30% by weight, and most preferably from about~~ 10% to about 26% by weight of pharmaceutically acceptable excipients.

6. (Previously Presented) Pharmaceutical composition according to ~~any of claims 1 to 5~~ claim 1, wherein said fibrate is in a crystalline phase, an amorphous phase, a semi-crystalline phase, or a semi-amorphous phase.

7. (Previously Presented) Pharmaceutical composition according to claim 1, wherein the fibrate is fenofibrate.

8. (Previously Presented) Pharmaceutical composition according to claim 1, wherein the fibrate is micronised or co-micronised.

9. (Previously Presented) Pharmaceutical composition according to claim 1, wherein the fibrate is co-micronized with a surfactant.

10. (Currently Amended) Pharmaceutical composition according to claim 1, wherein the particles of fibrate have an average size of less than about 20 μm~~, preferably of less than about 10 μm~~.

11. (Cancelled)

12. (Cancelled)

13. (Currently Amended) Pharmaceutical composition according to claim 1, wherein the fibrate is in the form of nanoparticles having an average size of less than about 2000 nm~~, preferably of less than about 1500 nm, preferably of less than about 1000 nm, preferably of less than about 500 nm, and preferably of less than about 100 nm~~.

14. (Previously Presented) Pharmaceutical composition according to claim 1, wherein metformin is in the form of the free base or one of its pharmaceutically acceptable salts.

15. (Currently Amended) Pharmaceutical composition according to claim 1, comprising ~~2000 mg of metformin and 160 mg of fenofibrate;~~ 850 mg of metformin and 80 mg of fenofibrate; 850 mg of metformin and 54 mg of fenofibrate; 500 mg of metformin and 80 mg of fenofibrate; 500 mg of metformine and 54 mg of fenofibrate; ~~or~~ 500 mg of metformin and 40 mg of fenofibrate; 500 mg of metformin and 45 mg of fenofibrate, 500 mg of metformin and 71 mg of fenofibrate, 850 mg of metformin and 71 mg of fenofibrate[[,]]; or 850 mg of metformin and 145 mg of fenofibrate~~, 1600 mg of metformin and 145 mg of fenofibrate~~.

16. (Previously Presented) Pharmaceutical composition according to claim 1, wherein the composition is formulated for oral, pulmonary, rectal, ophthalmic, colonic, parenteral, intracisternal, intravaginal, intraperitoneal, local, buccal, nasal, or topical administration.

17. (Previously Presented) Pharmaceutical composition according to claim 1, which is a tablet.

18. (Previously Presented) Pharmaceutical composition according to claim 1, which is a capsule.

19 (Previously Presented) Pharmaceutical composition of claim 17, which is in the form of a tablet weighing from about 500 to about 1500 mg.

20. (Previously Presented) Pharmaceutical composition according to claim 1, further comprising one or more active substances selected from the group consisting of PPARγ activators, HMG CoA reductase inhibitors and antihypertensives.

21. (Cancelled)

22. (Cancelled)

23. (Withdrawn) A process for preparing a pharmaceutical composition as defined in claim 1, wherein said pharmaceutical composition comprises granulates obtained by the process comprising the steps of:
a) preparing an aqueous dispersion of the fibrate, preferably in the presence of at least one binder and/or surface stabilizer;
b) spraying the resulting dispersion onto a fluidized bed of metformin, whereby granulates are obtained;
c) drying the resulting granulates.

24. (Withdrawn) A process for preparing a pharmaceutical composition as defined in claim 1, wherein said pharmaceutical composition comprises granulates obtained by the process comprises the steps of:
a) subjecting to high-shear a mixture of metformin and the fibrate, preferably in the presence of at least one binder and/or surface stabilizer;
b) adding water to the high-sheared mixture whereby granulates are obtained;
c) drying the resulting granulates in a fluid bed dryer.

25. (Withdrawn) A process for preparing a pharmaceutical composition as defined in claim 1, wherein said pharmaceutical composition comprises granulates obtained by the process comprises the steps of:
a) subjecting to high-shear a mixture of metformin and the fibrate, preferably in the presence of at least one binder and/or surface stabilizer;
b) adding water to the high-sheared mixture whereby granulates are obtained;
c) drying the resulting granulates in a one-pot system.

26. (New) Pharmaceutical composition according to claim 1, wherein the weight ratio of metformin to fibrate is comprised between 500:90 and 850:54.

27. (New) Pharmaceutical composition according to claim 10, wherein the particles of fibrate have an average size of less than about 10 μm.

28. (New) Pharmaceutical composition according to claim 13, wherein the fibrate is in the form of nanoparticles having an average size of less than about 1500 nm.

29. (New) Pharmaceutical composition according to claim 13, wherein the fibrate is in the form of nanoparticles having an average size of less than about 1000 nm.

30. (New) Pharmaceutical composition according to claim 13, wherein the fibrate is in the form of nanoparticles having an average size of than about 500 nm.

31. (New) Pharmaceutical composition according to claim 13, wherein the fibrate is in the form of nanoparticles having an average size of less than about 100 nm.

32. (New) Pharmaceutical composition according to claim 1, obtained from granulates comprising particles of metformin and particles of fibrate, adhering to said metformin particles.